

annual holiday fund drive. Her dedication to the people of the Second District of Texas is truly heartfelt.

Madam Speaker, the Second District of Texas is proud to have such a wonderful individual in its community. We have no doubt that the newspaper will miss Marie Richard and her dedication to the people of Beaumont, Texas.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM D.
MONTAGUE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of William D. Montague, Director of the Cleveland, Ohio Veterans Administration Medical Center (Cleveland VAMC), and in celebration of his retirement. For nearly twenty years he provided excellence, leadership and expertise in support of United States Veterans from northeast Ohio.

Thanks in part to his hard work and dedication, the Cleveland VAMC has consistently provided superior and innovative clinical care, outreach services and numerous programs for veterans and their families. Throughout his tenure at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Mr. Montague has served as CEO or acting CEO at six VA facilities, and has been actively involved in 13 major construction projects which enhanced and expanded services and programs for veterans.

Mr. Montague's effective leadership and professional accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. He has been recognized numerous times with local, state and national awards and honors, including the 2009 American College of Healthcare Executives Federal Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Award; the Presidential Meritorious Award (twice); and the AMVETS Civil Servant Award. Mr. Montague was a key contact in working with my Congressional staff to assist veterans who reside in the 10th Congressional District. His response and support was consistently timely and thorough.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of William D. Montague, retiring Director of the Cleveland VAMC, who served with integrity, dedication, diligence, compassion and expertise. I thank Mr. Montague for all of his assistance to United States Veterans of the 10th Congressional District and the region. I wish him and his family peace, health and happiness as he journeys onward.

NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAILS
ACT OF 2010

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan National Discovery Trails Act of 2010. This legislation seeks to connect existing trails, greenways, and country roads to form the American Discovery Trail a unique coast-to-coast, non-motorized, multi-use trail accessible to urban and rural areas alike all across the country.

Americans have utilized our nation's trail system for more than 40 years for outdoor recreation, exercise, historic study, and general enjoyment of the natural beauty this country has to offer. The American Discovery Trail will connect people to small towns, historic sites and natural wonders along a coast-to-coast route. It will provide millions of people greater access to a trail system that can be utilized for two hours, two days, two weeks, two months or longer giving users the flexibility to explore the trail for as much or as little time as they want. Numerous studies have shown that the presence of trails and greenway corridors positively impact quality of life, but also real estate property values, small businesses, tourism, and even some corporate relocations.

The National Trails System currently has two categories of significant long-distance trails. The first category is the National Historic Trail, which are famous historic routes, such as the Santa Fe Trail, Pony Express Trail, and the Lewis & Clark Trail. The second category is the National Scenic Trail, which are classic wilderness-only routes meant for hiking far from civilization, such as the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, and Continental Divide Trail.

The National Discovery Trails Act of 2010 would add a third long-distance national trails category called National Discovery Trails. National Discovery Trails would tie together historic and scenic trails and connect them with population centers from small towns to big cities in a way that will increase access to and awareness of our national trail system.

The legislation would also designate the American Discovery Trail as the first National Discovery Trail. The American Discovery Trail route—the first non-motorized way to cross the entire country—would utilize already existing right-of-ways on public land. It would be a patchwork quilt of the country's east-west pathways, including National Park hiking trails, National Forest logging roads, sections of historic routes, historic canal towpaths, rails-to-trails conversions, state and county park trails, country roads, small town sidewalks, and big city greenways—all stitched together to form one trail from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The National Park Service supported creation of the National Discovery Trail designation in a comprehensive feasibility study in 1996.

Madam Speaker, it is time to expand the national trails system and establish American Discovery Trails, linking community to community and providing trail users the opportunity to journey into the heart of all that is uniquely American—its culture, heritage, landscape, and spirit. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting of this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE J.
AUGUSTUS ACCURSO

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and admiration that I rise today to honor the late Judge J. Augustus "Augie" Accurso. Augie was not only an engaged member of our community in Stanislaus County, California, but he was a beloved fa-

ther and grandfather. He was a very special and well respected man to many people, known for his gift of conversation, sense of humor and positive approach to life. At the age of 79, Augie Accurso passed away on Sunday, February 7, 2010.

The Queens Village, N.Y., native had several other jobs before settling into law. He went to barber school and worked as a pharmacist, which his colleagues said ensured he would carefully scrutinize chemical evidence. Judge Accurso started out in the Stanislaus County district attorney's office in 1969, then after a little more than a year went into private practice. He was then selected by the county Board of Supervisors to become a Justice Court judge in Turlock. In 1977, the Board of Supervisors abolished the Justice Court, the board appointed him to the Municipal Court bench.

Judge Accurso served on the bench for two decades, and during his 20-year career as a judge, he served at every judicial level in the state shy of the Supreme Court. He served on the Justice Court, the Municipal Court, the Superior Court and the Court of Appeal. During his tenure, he also served as dean of the Judges College, an ongoing curriculum to help judges keep abreast of judicial procedures and rules.

Judge Accurso was also an active alumnus of the Theta Chi Fraternity. Judge Accurso pledged, and was initiated, Theta Chi while attending San Jose State. This was a relationship that he held proudly throughout his life as he encouraged and nurtured the chapter that formed at CSU Stanislaus in the late 70s. Judge Accurso was very influential in the lives of the members of the Eta Tau Chapter of Theta Chi at California State University Stanislaus, and was like a father to many of them.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to join my community in honoring the memory of Augie Accurso. He will be greatly missed by all.

RECOGNIZING WEST VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD AND LOCAL RESPONDERS FOR HEROIC WORK

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts of my fellow West Virginians, who safely and successfully rescued 17 individuals from a downed military helicopter in Pocahontas County, WV, last week. The Navy helicopter was participating in the Operation Southbound Trooper X annual military exercise, when it went down in a deep snow-covered and rugged site, which lies in northwestern Pocahontas County.

A West Virginia Army National Guard HH-60 Blackhawk helicopter—piloted by Bluefield, WV, native Major Kevin Hazuka—located the downed aircraft. Two medics were lowered to the landing site to assess the situation and provide assistance to the injured. A C-130 Hercules aircraft from the 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston was dispatched and orbited the site to maintain communications with the downed aircraft, while emergency response and rescue teams worked through the night